



U.S. - Bavaria Ties

Economic

- The U.S. is Bavaria's largest trade partner for exports, and second largest for imports. Nearly 25 percent of Germany's \$130 billion in annual trade with the U.S. each year is with Bavaria.
- The U.S. is the biggest foreign investor in Bavaria, with some 700 U.S. firms located there.
- Munich is home to the largest contingent of U.S. state representative offices in Europe, promoting trade and investment in the U.S.
- Bavaria excels at "globalization" – BMW is the largest exporter of automobiles made in the U.S. to non-NAFTA countries. (Over 49 of the 182 companies that make up BMW's extensive global supplier network are located near BMW's Spartanburg, South Carolina production facility.
- Aircraft giant EADS, with headquarters in Munich and Paris, is a major competitor with the U.S. (Airbus), and a significant defense supplier (Eurocopter).
- Bavaria is home to nine of the "DAX 30" firms, including Siemens, Allianz, and BMW. Many have extensive U.S. operations. Siemens alone employs some 60,000 in the U.S.
- Bill Gates dubbed Bavaria the "European High Tech Mecca" – several U.S. tech firms, including TI and GE have chosen to settle in Bavaria. Of the 700 U.S. firms located in Bavaria, some 400 are in a high tech field.
- Munich is the insurance center of Germany, and in banking is second only to Frankfurt.
- Munich is the publishing capital of Europe; world-wide is second only to New York.
- With a gross national product of Euro 385 billion, Bavaria's economy is larger than 19 of the 27 EU member states.
- Bavaria is a top location for international exhibitions. The Munich and Nuremberg "Messies" host about 90 trade shows a year and are strong both in consumer and investment goods. Some 50,000 exhibitors attract about over 3 million visitors a year.

People to People

- Bavaria - with Oktoberfest, castles, the Alps, and lederhosen - is the number one destination for U.S. tourists in Germany. In 2006, more than 650,000 Americans visited Bavaria, including an estimated 165,000 attending Oktoberfest.
- There are nearly 40,000 Americans residing in Bavaria. Each year, the American Consulate General in Munich registers 500 Reports of Americans born in Bavaria and renews 5,000 American passports.
- There are 31 U.S.-Bavaria sister city partnerships.
- U.S. Consulate General Munich reopened its Nonimmigrant Visa section in July 2006 and issued close to 5,000 student and exchange visas from October 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007.
- There were 500,000 Bavarian immigrants to the U.S. in the 19th Century and 86,000 Bavarian immigrants to the U.S. in the last 10 years.

Political-Military

- Bavaria is the only state in Germany with a distinct regional political party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), the sister to Chancellor Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU).
- Munich is host to the annual Munich Conference on Security Policy – the "Davos" of the security policy world, with a strong U.S. delegation led by cabinet and Congressional-level participants.
- Bavaria is host to the largest contingent of U.S. Army forces in Europe.

Education and Research

- 2,095 Bavarian (pre-university) exchange students went to the U.S. in 2005/2006; 1,413 U.S. students came to Bavaria.
- 446 U.S. students attended Bavarian universities in 2005/2006. There are approximately 210 exchange programs between Bavarian and U.S. universities.
- Bavaria is home to two of Germany's three "Elite" universities: Ludwig-Maximilians-University and the Technical University of Munich.
- Bavaria accounts for 28 percent of all German patent applications, although Bavaria has only about 15 percent of the population of Germany.

Prepared by the American Consulate General in Munich

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